

# Alexander Mountain

## Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Unit

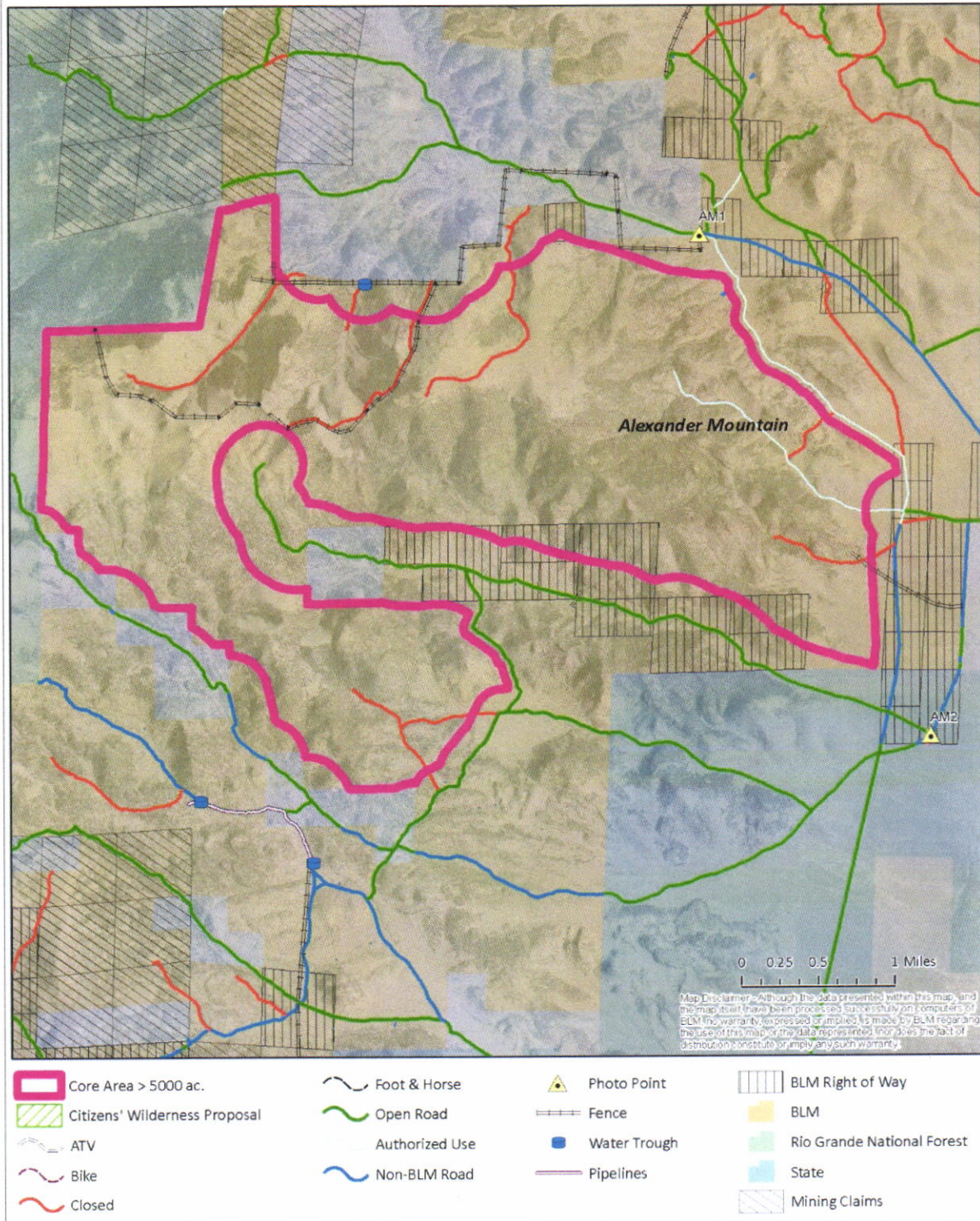


Figure 5 – Alexander Mountain



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**ALEXANDER MOUNTAIN**

Photo Point AM1 – From NE Looking SW to Alexander Mountain



Photo Point AM2 – From SE Looking W to Alexander Mountain



Photo Point AM2 – From SE Looking NW to Alexander Mountain

**Form 1 – Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings  
from Previous Inventory on Record**

**(1) Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?**

**No** ☒ (Go to Form 2) **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

**Form 2 - Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

**Area Unique Identifier:** Alexander Mountain

**Acreage:** 6,805

**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?** (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below)

**Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

**Description** (describe the boundaries of the area – wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

The Alexander Mountain inventory area is located entirely on BLM lands approximately halfway between the towns of La Garita and Saguache in Saguache County, CO. It is bordered by Saguache County Road T45.5 on the northeast and north and by the private land boundary of Lime Creek Estates. The unit is bordered on the west by National Forest System lands, the south by Saguache County Road R44.8 and a BLM system road, and on the east by Saguache County Roads 47V and T. Unlike the other inventory units on the Field Office, the Alexander Mountain unit wraps around a private inholding and system roads, which are in the middle of the unit. There are 2 active grazing leases, 7 Rights-Of-Way, and one mining claim in the Alexander Mountain Unit.

**(2) Does the area appear to be natural?**

**Yes** ☒ **No** ☐ **N/A** ☐

**Note:** If "No" is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

**Description** (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

The Alexander Mountain unit is located entirely on BLM lands. It is located approximately halfway between the towns of La Garita and Saguache in Saguache County on the west side of US Highway 285. Access to the unit is readily available via 3 county roads from nearby US Highway 285 and subsequent BLM open system roads.

The Alexander Mountain unit is typified by open, relatively flat, terrain approaching Alexander Mountain proper, which is an intermittently forested hillside, primarily consisting of the Piñon-Juniper cover type (see photos). Lands within the Alexander Mountain unit are classified primarily as Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Shrub Steppe, Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Grassland, Southern Rocky Mountain Piñon-Juniper Woodland, and Rocky Mountain Dry-Mesic and Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

The principal human activities and imprints of man within the Alexander Mountain unit include livestock grazing and related facilities, such as water improvements and fences. Local area residents and visitors also utilize the area for recreational purposes, primarily during the fall big game hunting seasons.

**(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes ☐

No ☒

N/A ☐

**Description** (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

Because of the rural nature of this part of the San Luis Valley, with small populations of year-round residents and typically low itinerant visitation for most of the year (with the notable exception of increased visitation throughout the length of the fall big game hunting seasons, which can be significant at times), opportunities for solitude do exist within the Alexander Mountain area, however, they cannot be considered 'outstanding.' With the lowland area's minimal topographic relief, lack of vegetation suitable for screening, open terrain, and easy vehicular access throughout the area, *outstanding* opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit. The area's higher, forested elevations offer more screening and a greater sense of solitude; however, at essentially no time is a visitor to this landscape free from the sights, sounds and works of man.

**(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes ☐

No ☒

N/A ☐

**Note:** If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

**Description** (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

The primary recreational use throughout the unit is seasonal big game hunting. Access to Alexander Mountain is through a combination of foot and horse and OHV, with constant off-road incursions into the area, primarily from ATV use related to hunting. There are no trails, and no recreational facilities in the area. All use is self-directed and requires moderate

backcountry skills, such as map-reading or GPS familiarity, and basic survival skills. Similar to 'solitude', opportunities exist for primitive and unconfined recreation, however, they cannot be considered 'outstanding.'

**(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value)?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

**Description:**

### **SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS\***

**Area Unique Identifier:** Alexander Mountain

#### **Results of analysis:**

Of the 6,805 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Alexander Mountain unit is characterized in the lowlands by open, uniform terrain that lacks topographic and vegetative diversity and intermittently forested areas in the uplands of the unit. The area is generally natural in appearance; however, visitors are essentially never free from the sights, sounds and works of man. Though the area is known for its backcountry experience, primarily related to big game hunting habitat, and the fairly typical setting offers opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, those experiences cannot be considered 'outstanding.'

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

**Check one:**

☐ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

☒ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

#### **Prepared by (team members):**

Sean Noonan, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Clayton Davey, BLM Recreation Assistant  
Heather Salaz, BLM Recreation Assistant

**(Name, Title, Date)**

**Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):**

Name: Andrew Schubert Title: Field Manager  
Date: 3 July 2012

**\*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.**